

Wildlife Diversity News

A Publication of the Iowa DNR Wildlife Diversity Program

Stephen's State Forest— Thousand Acres Bird Conservation Area Dedicated

Volume 13, Issue 3
Summer 2014

On June 19th, the Wildlife Diversity Program joined with partners from around the state to dedicate Iowa's 19th Bird Conservation Area (BCA). The Stephen's Forest— Thousand Acres BCA is centered around the eastern portion of Stephen's State Forest in Lucas, Marion, and Monroe Counties. The fourth BCA to include land from a State Forest as core habitat, the area contains large amounts of both forest and grassland and provides valuable habitat for hundreds of bird species. Multiple Iowa Species of Greatest Conservation Need including the Red-shouldered Hawk, Black-billed Cuckoo, and Louisiana Waterthrush have been documented nesting in the BCA, while many other notable birds migrate through the area. Several non-bird Species of Greatest Conservation Need including reptiles, dragonflies, and butterflies can also be found inhabiting this southern Iowa gem.

Numerous partner agencies were represented at the dedication, including the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Lucas County Conservation Board, the DNR's Forestry Bureau and Natural Resources Commission. Notably, landowners Mike and Dan DeCook spoke about their family's long-standing dedication to conserving the land, and how owning land within a Bird Conservation Area helps validate their many years of hard



work. The DeCooks raise grass-fed Bison on their land, which is sustainably managed for the dual purposes of livestock production and bird habitat.

The Iowa DNR's Forestry bureau has played an important role in the creation of this and several other BCAs. Stephens Forest- Thousand Acres is the second of two BCAs that contain core land from Stephens State Forest. In addition, the Effigy Mounds— Yellow River Forest BCA in Northeast Iowa and the Shimek Forest BCA in Southeast Iowa contain large core blocks of Iowa State Forests. Stephens State Forest Area Forester Jessica Flatt has been conducting forestry management practices that not only benefit the forest resources but also provide habitat to both nesting and migratory bird species.

- Julia Dale

WDP Assistant, AmeriCorps Member

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Edited by Julia Dale, AmeriCorps

Diversity Dispatch

Breaking News in the World of Wildlife

Canada Begins Captive Breeding of Sage Grouse

A zoo in Canada has begun a captive breeding program for the Greater Sage Grouse, starting with eleven chicks they are currently raising. The eggs were collected from the wild following an order from the Canadian federal government under the Species at Risk Act. The Calgary Zoo hatched 13 eggs, though two young died. Canada's Greater Sage Grouse are limited to two isolated populations in the southern plains, roughly north of Montana, and their population has declined by 98% in the past few decades, leaving fewer than 200 of the birds left. Biologists hope the captive breeding effort can help save the species from extirpation.



<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/the-canadian-press/140610/endangered-sage-grouse-eggs-the-wild-hatch-successfully-at-c>



Bison Proposed as National Mammal

Citing the impact of the American Bison on the culture and history of the nation, several senators have backed the National Bison Legacy act, which would provide ceremonial designation of the American Bison as the national mammal of the United States. Bison were hunted by Native Americans, and the animal is an important cultural and spiritual symbol for many tribes. The Bison was also a major ecological force across the great plains. In the nineteenth century, the species was hunted nearly to extinction. Conservation efforts have led to a gradual recovery, though Bison still occupy only a fraction of their original range.

http://trib.com/news/state-and-regional/senators-want-bison-declared-national-mammal/article_4d813d91-2d84-5e37-ab0f-0ef3a7d4e7a6.html

Lyme Disease Older Than Humans

Researchers have found evidence that the *Borrelia* bacteria, which causes Lyme disease, has been carried by ticks for at least 15 million years. Oregon State University scientists studied several ancient ticks which had been preserved in amber, and found many cells which resemble the modern bacteria. Also observed were *Rickettsia* bacteria, which causes other tick-borne illnesses such as Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. The findings indicate that humans have been living with Lyme disease for our entire history as a species, despite medical knowledge of the disease dating back only forty years. The disease can cause symptoms in the heart, joints, and nervous system and can be debilitating if left untreated.

<http://oregonstate.edu/ua/ncs/archives/2014/may/amber-discovery-indicates-lyme-disease-older-human-race>



Diversity Dispatch

Breaking News in the World of Wildlife

Famous Kenyan “Tusker” Killed by Poachers

One of Kenya’s most well-known and revered elephants has been found dead, killed by poachers who used a poison arrow. The animal, which was known as a “tusker” due to its massive tusks, was named Satao and estimated to be about 45 years old. He had developed an apparent ability to hide from humans, which had likely enabled him to reach such an old age. The bull’s tusks were removed, and each of them could fetch tens of thousands of dollars. Poaching of African Elephants remains at unsustainable levels, and is encouraged by high demand for ivory. An estimated 20,000 elephants were killed on the continent in 2013.

<http://news.wildlife.org/featured/poachers-kill-kenyas-iconic-tusker/>



Scalloped Hammerhead Becomes First Shark to be Protected Under ESA



Four of the six distinct populations of the Scalloped Hammerhead Shark have received protection under the Endangered Species Act. Two populations have been designated as threatened, and two more have received Endangered status. The species, which inhabits waters in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans, is caught for their fins and as bycatch by fishermen targeting other species. These sharks have a markedly decreased chance of survival when caught and released.

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/scalloped-hammerheads-become-first-shark-species-on-the-u-s-endangered-species-list/>

EPA Approves Treatment for Zebra Mussels

A product intended to control populations of invasive Zebra and Quagga Mussels has received approval from the US Environmental Protection Agency. The product, known as Zequanox, which has previously been successful when used in closed water systems, can now be used to treat open water bodies like lakes and rivers. The treatment selectively kills invasive mussels, and is considered safe for humans and the environment. Zebra and Quagga mussels have become a significant problem in US waterways, where the organisms can cause massive economic and environmental damage.

<http://www.marronebioinnovations.com/2014/07/epa-approves-zequanox-for-invasive-mussel-control-in-open-water/>

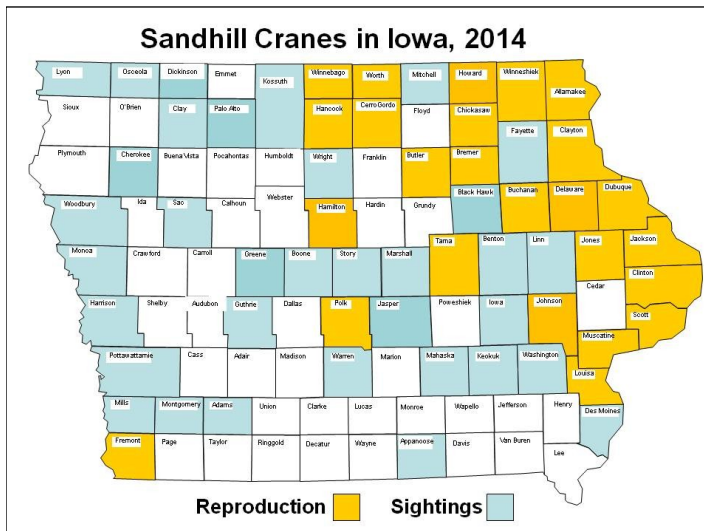


Marsh Dancers— A Natural History of the Sandhill Crane in Iowa

As their haunting calls suggest, Sandhill Cranes are prehistoric birds. They are among the oldest living bird species with a lineage in the fossil record dating back some ten million years. Long missing from the Iowa landscape, crane populations are increasing and these calls are resonating through more and more Iowa wetlands.

James Dinsmore, author of *A Country So Full of Game*, writes: “Prior to European settlement of Iowa, Greater Sandhill Cranes probably were a common nesting species and abundant migrants across the state. Even in the 1890s, it was not uncommon to see flocks of hundreds or even thousands of cranes in Winnebago and Hancock Counties in spring.”

As wetlands were drained across Iowa and hunting pressure increased, nesting of these majestic birds declined, with the last nest being reported in 1894. Migrants were a rare sight for most of the twentieth century, until wetland restoration on the breeding grounds in Minnesota and Wisconsin led to gradual population increases. The number of Sandhill Cranes reported in Iowa increased significantly in the late 1980's, culminating in their return as a nesting species in 1992.



Much of this improvement can be tied to wetland restoration. As with many other species, cranes will respond by pioneering into rejuvenated habitat. Cranes have been included in bird counts in at least 55 counties during recent years, and reproduction was noted in 24 counties in 2014.

In the misty pre-dawn light in wetlands across the state,

Sandhill Cranes perform elaborate mating dances, leaping into the air and waving their wings.

Throughout the revelry, cranes are constantly bugling, which can be heard a half

-mile away. They nest in shallow wetlands with dense vegetation, where a pair will lay two eggs that hatch in late spring. The dense vegetation of the wetlands hides the young brown colts. Though they do not have webbed feet, hatchling cranes are good swimmers and may leave the nest to follow parents through the wetlands, sometimes within hours of hatching. At three months of age, the young begin to fly, but the colts remain with their parents throughout their first winter.

Cranes are social birds, constantly communicating with each other with their distinctive bugling calls. Their impressive beaks are not only used for getting food and preening feathers, but also as weapons. When cranes are threatened, they use their wings to maintain balance as they jump up and strike at the attacker with beak and sharp talons.

As crane nesting increases across the state, reports of their whereabouts are appreciated. Each year Iowans assist the Annual Midwest Sandhill Crane Count conducted by the International Crane Foundation from Baraboo, Wisconsin. The Count, which began in 1976, is used to monitor the general population trends and distribution of Sandhill Cranes in the Upper Midwest, and promote the awareness of cranes and wetland conservation. More information can be found at www.savingcranes.org/annual-midwest-crane-count.html.

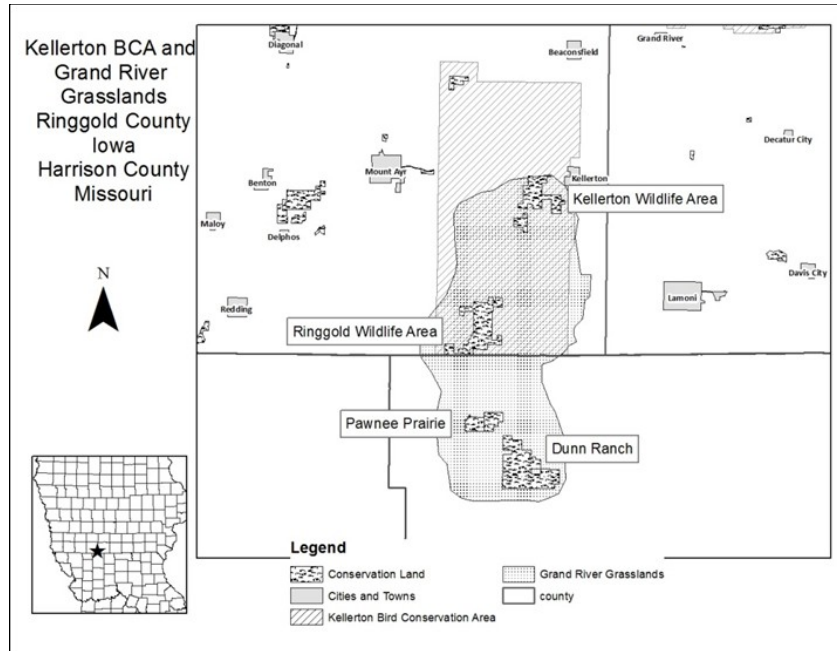
It's pretty incredible to welcome Sandhill Cranes returning to Iowa marshes each spring. So join the fun and leap on down to your favorite marsh to enjoy nature's orchestration and dazzling courtship dances.

- Pat Schlarbaum
WDP Technician



Keeping the Grasslands Booming— Prairie Chicken Update

For the third April in a row, Iowa DNR staff, along with staff from The Nature Conservancy and the Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines, trapped and translocated Nebraska Greater Prairie-Chickens for release in the Grand River Grasslands (GRG). The Grand River Grasslands is a mosaic of public and working lands, a majority of it in grass, covering 70,000 acres in Southern Ringgold County, IA and Northern Harrison County, MO. It is Iowa's very best location for Prairie Chickens, and intense land management work is ongoing along with an influx of new Prairie Chickens to supplement the existing population.



Prairie (MO) in the south (see map). We have documented, particularly well this year, that birds are moving between these areas freely. A male released in 2012 at Kellerton was seen displaying on the breeding ground (lek) at Dunn Ranch this spring. One hen released at Kellerton this spring established a nest at Pawnee Prairie, while one hen released

at Dunn Ranch nested on the Kellerton Wildlife Area.

Despite the heavy rains this spring and early summer, the nesting evidence this year is relatively optimistic. Three hens with transmitters have successfully hatched nests of 11-13 young; two on Kellerton and one on Pawnee Prairie. In addition, there have been at least 2 other broods sighted from resident (untransmittered) hens.

One concern from this year is that, while good numbers of males are appearing and displaying on established leks, we have not found new lek sites being established. This is something we would expect to see as the numbers of birds increases in the area.

There will be one more year at least of translocations and we will continue to monitor the birds through lek surveys and other means. Most importantly, we will continue to work in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, the Missouri Department of Conservation and private landowners to create a healthy landscape of grass that will support the full community of grassland wildlife.

- Stephanie Shepherd
WDP Biologist



A few of the Prairie Chicken hens released have radio or GPS transmitters attached to them, which allows us to track their activities and movements. The birds also have bands on the legs, color coded to the year they were released. There are three anchor points of protected land in the GRG: Kellerton Wildlife Area (IA) in the north, Ringgold Wildlife Area (IA) in the middle and Dunn Ranch/Pawnee

Iowa's First Globally Important Bird Area- A Tribute to Cerulean Warblers and the Man Who Pursues Them



In the middle of Yellow River State Forest, on a lovely day the last of May, over 50 people gathered to celebrate the dedication of Iowa's first Globally Important Bird Area (Global IBA). The day started with field trips, guided by several enthusiastic birder souls, and almost everyone who attended, in order to either listen to or get a glimpse of an elusive Cerulean Warbler, were not disappointed.

As a result of this dedication ceremony, the Effigy Mounds-Yellow River Forest Bird Conservation Area (BCA) is now officially recognized by the National Audubon Society, Birdlife International, and Iowa Audubon as a Global IBA. This distinction came about especially as the result of Jon "Hawk" Stravers' persistent efforts over many years to document the numerous territories of the Cerulean Warbler – a species that nests in large older growth trees within landscapes of thousands of acres of forest. In other words, this is a species found particularly within the "Driftless" area of northeastern Iowa – and even more specifically, it is most abundant within Effigy Mounds-Yellow River Forest BCA.

Jon has been collecting data on all forest nesting birds of this area for many years. A few years back, he realized that there were many more Cerulean Warblers nesting at this location than almost anyone had imagined. Since this bird of cerulean blue has declined throughout its nesting range by over 70% since 1966, Jon knew that it was important to document exactly how many Cerulean Warbler territories

might actually exist. To receive Global IBA status, a site needs to have documented at least 40 Cerulean Warblers each year for several consecutive years. So in 2011, when Jon discovered Ceruleans at 50 of 100 points visited, he knew he was onto something special. With increased effort, 169 territories were documented in 2012, followed by 191 territories confirmed in 2013 – way more territories than required for Global IBA status.

Jon's enthusiasm for bird field work is contagious. Just as others (including yours truly) have happily joined Jon in the field to hunt for Red-shouldered Hawk nests, a few field warriors are also now assisting Jon in his quest to locate Cerulean Warbler territories. With bits of funding scraped together from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Audubon Society, Iowa DNR, Iowa Audubon, Army Corps of Engineers, Iowa Ornithologist's Union, etc., Jon has managed to keep his forest bird field project alive.

An important side benefit that results from so much attention directed toward Cerulean Warblers and other cool



forest birds is that more people are spending money on watching birds and other wildlife. These dollars are important to local economies. In recent years, it is estimated that wildlife watching has brought \$318 million annually into Iowa coffers. While many of us are still most motivated to seek Cerulean Warblers for the sake of experiencing their presence in the natural environment, we

A Normal Day in the Life of a Wildlife Biologist



Working in the conservation field, pretty much every day offers some unique experience. Yesterday was just such a day. Let me first preface this by saying that it is not unusual to receive several calls each day regarding perceived problem wildlife, or more commonly, wildlife in need of assistance.

Yesterday I received a couple of calls (one from Marla Mertz, Marion County Conservation Board Naturalist) and an email about a Pileated Woodpecker that was found with a head injury near Red Rock Lake. After that initial flurry of communication, I made a comment to one of my co-workers that "I'll bet that woodpecker ends up in my house." Now I know this seems an odd statement – until you consider the fact that I am married to a Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator.

Sure enough, at around 11 pm yesterday the bird arrived in a cardboard box, in the company of my wife, Marlene, and one of the best volunteers ever, Tammy Rons. A physical exam was provided the woodpecker, rehydrating fluid was administered, and the woodpecker was tucked away for the night. As I retired to bed, I remember thinking - I sure hope that woodpecker is still alive in the morning.



This morning I awoke to the normal assortment of songs from robins, cardinals, house finches, and catbirds. What was different was I also heard the calls of a Pileated Woodpecker, echoing off the walls of our dining room!

I wonder what tomorrow will bring?

- Bruce Ehresman
WDP Biologist

Globally Important Bird Area, Continued

remain hopeful that some of the dollars generated from the pursuit of this outdoor experience will be reinvested in the habitat that supports this unique species.

Even though Iowa is known for being the most altered of states, the wildlife habitat that remains intact continues to provide homes to a wide variety of species. Today we tip our hats to Jon Stravers. Because of his enthusiasm, optimism, and perseverance, Iowa now has a Globally

Important Bird Area that appears to provide summer homes for one of the largest populations of Cerulean Warblers on the Upper Mississippi!

- Bruce Ehresman
WDP Biologist

A Brief Guide to Tadpole Identification

With summer fully upon us, our local ponds, streams, and rivers are now teeming with life. The calls of the breeding spring frogs are now slowing and the results of the amorous chorus are now swimming in the shallows. I am of course referring to the many types of tadpoles that now fill our smaller water bodies. There are many types of amphibian larva in Iowa and a few of the common ones are described below.

- Brent Rutter

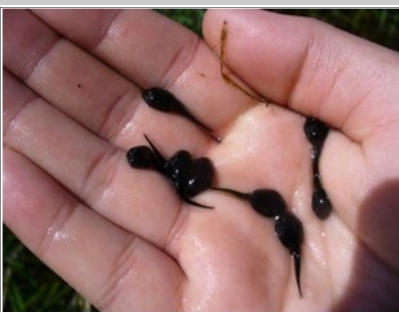
MSIM Assistant, AmeriCorps Member

Northern Cricket Frog



Eggs are laid singly or in a loose cluster. Tadpole has an obvious black tail tip. Eyes are located between the top and side of the body, and bands of pigment lie along the top edge of the tail musculature.

Toads



All of Iowa's four species of toads lay their eggs in long strings. Tadpoles are small and black or dark brown, with bright metallic spots.

Tree Frogs



Both the Cope's and Eastern Gray Tree Frogs lay clumps of eggs. The tadpoles have high tail fins that often have red coloration on them. The two species are indistinguishable based on morphology.

Bullfrog



These large, vocal frogs lay eggs in large, flat, floating rafts. The tadpoles are quite large and greenish brown with eyes near the top of the body. They have distinct black spots on the back of the body and the tail.

Chorus Frog



Eggs are laid in loose irregular clumps, and the tadpoles have eyes on the side of the body and high tail fins. The body is brownish, black or gray above and bronze or silvery below, and usually has clear fins with a bicolored tail musculature.

Bonus: Salamanders!



Salamanders have a larval phase that may be confused with a tadpole in early development. The main differences are external gills and a larger distinct jaw as opposed to the small mouths of tadpoles.

Species Spotlight— Periodical Cicadas (*Magicicada* sp.)

If you've spent any time in the woods of Central or Southeastern Iowa this summer, you can't have failed to notice the massive chorus of periodical cicadas droning from the trees. These vocal insects are part of Brood III— a brood of 17-year cicadas also known as the Iowan Brood which last emerged in 1997 and can also be found in northeastern Missouri and west-central Illinois. There are three distinct species of 17-year periodical cicadas that make up this brood: *Magicicada septendecim*, *Magicicada cassini*, and *Magicicada septendecula*. Four other species in the genus *Magicicada* make up the 13-year cicadas, which are generally more Southern in distribution.

While members of the *Magicicada* genus are in many ways similar to the annual cicadas that most people are familiar with, they can be easily distinguished based on morphology and sound. The red eyes, dark body, and smaller size make periodical cicadas distinct. In addition, the chorus of these periodicals is significantly more robust than that of the annuals. (Recordings of *Magicicada* choruses can be found at www.magicicada.org).

We see the insects during their final life stage, by which time they have already undergone massive changes. The cycle begins when eggs are laid in slits on the outer twigs of trees. In a few weeks, the larvae emerge and fall to the ground, where they burrow into the soil and begin to feast upon the xylem fluids in the roots of the tree. Over the next seventeen years, the larvae feed and grow as they go through 5 instar (developmental) stages. In May or June of an emergence year, the *Magicicada* nymphs begin to emerge from the soil, climb onto trees or vegetation, and undergo one last molt before beginning their final life stage, in which the males sing to attract a mate, and the females lay their eggs, beginning the cycle anew. This spectacular emergence only lasts for a few weeks, and will likely be complete by mid-July.

While the deafening chorus of these insects is certainly impressive, it is the unusually long, prime-numbered life cycles of both the 13 and 17-year cicadas which fascinates people the most. How (and why) these species evolved to



emerge in such massive numbers in such perfect synchrony over such a large time scale has long been a topic of debate for entomologists. The overwhelming emergence of the insects is likely a predator satiation strategy, in which the lion's share of the population is protected from predation as predators can only consume so many insects at once. Some entomologists have hypothesized that the unique prime numbered life cycles may be an evolutionary strategy to prevent predators from synchronizing their own population cycles to match those of the cicada. Others have theorized that the cycles are advantageous in preventing hybridization between broods.

Whether you want to speculate on the evolutionary history of *Magicicada* or simply take in the spectacle of millions of insects emerging and joining in a deafening chorus, this is not an event to miss! Any forested area, including urban areas with sufficiently mature trees, south of I-80 and east of I-35 and north along the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers is a good bet for finding an emergence. The choruses are winding down in much of the state and may even be over in some more southern areas. Luckily, if you miss the 2014 emergence, you won't have to wait until 2031 for a repeat performance. Brood IV, the Kansan Brood, will show up in southwest Iowa next summer!

- Julia Dale
WDP Assistant, AmeriCorps Member

Meet the New WDP Staff



Kevin Murphy, MSIM Biologist

Kevin Murphy joins the Wildlife Diversity Program in a partnership position with Iowa State University as the biologist for the Multiple Species Inventory and Monitoring project (MSIM). After receiving his BS in Environmental Sciences from the University of Iowa, Kevin went on to earn a Master's degree in Wildlife Ecology from Iowa State University in 2013. His research there focused on migratory waterbird use of sheetwater wetlands in Iowa. In the fall of 2013, he worked for the MSIM program conducting surveys of mussels, birds, and odonates. He has most recently worked as AmeriCorps Wildlife Management Technician at the Clear Lake Wildlife Management Unit, and as a seasonal Wetlands and Wildlife Aide at the Clear Lake Wildlife Research Office. Kevin enjoys birding, hunting, and wildlife photography, and is excited to return to Ames to work on the MSIM project.

Scientific Name Game

Think you know scientific names? Brush up on your Latin with this quiz!

- Matt Stephenson, IWAP Assitant, AmeriCorps

1. Eastern Kingbird ____
2. Yellow-headed Blackbird ____
3. Ring-necked Snake ____
4. Tiger Salamander ____
5. Coral Hairstreak ____
6. Spiny Softshell Turtle ____
7. White-tailed Deer ____
8. Raccoon ____
9. Northern Cardinal ____
10. American Goldfinch ____
11. Red-headed Woodpecker ____
12. Ornate Box Turtle ____
13. False Map Turtle ____
14. Indiana Bat ____
15. Lined Snake ____
16. River Otter ____



- A. *Diadophis punctatus arnyi*
- B. *Tyrannus tyrannus*
- C. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*
- D. *Apalone spinifera*
- E. *Graptemys pseudogeographica*
- F. *Lontra canadensis*
- G. *Cardinalis cardinalis*
- H. *Ambystoma tigrinum*
- I. *Odocoileus virginianus*
- J. *Terrapene ornata ornata*
- K. *Tropidoclonion lineatum*
- L. *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*
- M. *Carduelis tristis*
- N. *Satyrrium titus*
- O. *Myotis sodalist*
- P. *Procyon lotor*

Answers on page 5

News From the Frog Pond

The majority of the phone calls and emails we get concerning snakes come in early spring or late fall as snakes are coming out of or heading into hibernacula for the winter. For these types of questions (how do I keep snakes out of my yard/house?), we pass along information from Iowa State University's Wildlife Extension office (available here: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/article/controlling-snakes-home-property>) about making your yard less attractive to snakes. Like all living things, snakes need food and cover, so by limiting these things (keeping mice and birds out of your house and sealing any cracks in walls and foundations), snakes will move on to other locations.

However, we also receive a number of calls reporting rattlesnakes. While there are 3 rattlesnake species native to Iowa, all are very rare. Many non-venomous snakes, however, will mimic the rattle sound made by a rattlesnake (even though these non-venomous species lack an actual rattle on their tail). This ability to mimic the sound leads people to believe they have seen a rattlesnake, when it is usually a harmless species. You Tube has several videos of harmless snakes mimicking the sound of a rattlesnake (search on fox snake and rattle).



Timber Rattlesnake. Note the vertical pupils, facial pit, and obvious rattle. Photo: Ryan Rasmussen

located between their eye and nostril which allows them to detect body heat, non-venomous snakes lack this pit.

Iowa does have one venomous snake that lacks a rattle – the Copperhead. The Copperhead is extremely rare in Iowa. It also has the pit between the eye and nostril, and vertical

There are other distinguishing characteristics between rattlesnakes and more common species. Rattlesnakes have vertical pupils (like cat's eyes), non-venomous snakes have round pupils. Rattlesnakes have a 'pit' (or hole)

pupils. Copperheads are only known from the southeastern-most counties.

The Fox Snake is the snake most commonly misidentified in Iowa. This is due to their statewide distribution, blotchy pattern and color, and their tendency to 'rattle' their tail. There is no rattle, the snake will rapidly vibrate its tail against dried leaves or grass to make a rattle noise. Other rattlesnake mimics can include Bullsnares, Prairie Kingsnakes, and Watersnakes. For more information on these or any of the 27 snakes that are native to Iowa, visit "HerpNet" at http://www.herpNet.net/Iowa-Herpetology/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=81&Itemid=45



Fox Snake in defensive posture. Photo: Ryan Rasmussen

Now, after spending all this time convincing you that seeing an actual venomous snake, especially in an urban setting, is very, very rare, it is not impossible. While the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship regulates ownership of dangerous animals, including non-native rattlesnakes, there are occasionally reports where people released their "pet" snake into the "wild". This is against the law, just as abandoning a farm animal or domestic pet is against the law.

Regardless of whether a snake may be an exotic release or a native species, we cannot offer more than the advice and information in this article without a photo. If there is a photo, we may be able to assist you in identifying the species. The best advice for managing any wild animal is to simply leave it alone. As long as your home is not providing something attractive (mice or a warm interior for the winter), they will move on to another area.

- Karen Kinkead
WDP Coordinator

Last Look



Multiple Species Inventory and Monitoring (MSIM) technician Nicole Benson captured this photo of a Jade Clubtail dragonfly munching on a bee at DeKalb Wildlife Management Area in Decatur County. MSIM crews are currently monitoring wildlife at sites across Iowa.

Upcoming Events

Fall Iowa Ornithologist's Union Meeting

Enjoy field trips, interesting presentations, and discussion with area birders.

September 22-24

Ankeny, IA

<http://www.iowabirds.org/Meetings/NextMeeting.aspx>

Coralville Lake Pelican Festival

Join the Iowa City Bird Club and local organizations to view and learn about the American White Pelican.

September 7, 11am– 4pm,

Hawkeye Wildlife Area, 2546 Amana Road NW, Swisher

For more info, contact Karen Disbrow, Iowa City Bird Club, (319)-430-0315

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